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Chemical probe continues

GRIFFITH — Town officials are still investigating charges made earlier this month about chemical pollution on the south side of town, but preliminary investigations have uncovered no real problems.

That was the gist of comments made by Trustees Patricia Schaadt and L. E. Owen at the Town Board meeting Tuesday night.

They said spokesmen at American Chemical Co. and Pazmey Inc., an oil drum reclamation business, has been cooperative in explaining exactly what they do and how they do it.

The two companies are adjacent to one another and are just north of the town landfill.

The board investigation into the companies' operations is in response to charges made at the Aug. 4 Town Board meeting about alleged chemical pollution and erosion problems at American Chemical.

Owen said town officials are still waiting for a report on water samples taken from a nearby ditch, but reported that the water stain previously noted may be rust rather than something dangerous.

He reported, "the barrel company appears to be a good operation. It isn't allowing any chemicals or pollutants to touch

soil or the ditch."

Mrs. Schaadt added, "It has its own septic system. There is no runoff into our sanitary sewers."

She said that town officials are still waiting to hear if there is a problem with pH levels there.

The area where there has been soil erosion isn't near a barrel burial ground as previously thought, Owen said. However, he said the land will be filled in and graded as it is supposed to be.

The barrels that are buried have been filled with sand and are in a pit surrounded by clay, Mrs. Schaadt pointed out.

The 13-acre town sanitary landfill nearby has had its operating permit renewed by the state, Owen announced. The permit is contingent upon several requirements being met, including the start of a program to monitor water wells as of Jan. 1, 1982. Also, trench depth is to be limited to 15 feet and sidewalls of sand are to be sealed with five feet of compacted clay.

In other business Tuesday night, the Town Board decided to contribute \$1,000 to the Lake County Drug Task Force. Clerk-Treasurer Don E. Genis said he wouldn't know where the money could be squeezed from the budget until later this year.

The contribution is to be used as "buy money" by undercover

policemen investigating drug use in the county.

The board signed an agreement with the County Commissioners and Highland for three-way participation in the proposed improvement of Cline Avenue between 45th Avenue and Ridge Road.

The agreement, which hasn't yet been signed by the other parties, calls for the three governmental units to make a joint application to the Federal Highway Administration for urban funds to pay for the road and bridge improvements. Each is to pay one-third of the local funds required.

The proposed project would involve widening the road to four lanes. Additional street lighting would be included.

The terms of the agreement call for the County Commissioners to develop specifications for the joint application and pay for a consultant to prepare the application.

The segment of Cline Avenue proposed for improvements is the dividing line between Griffith and Highland. The project would involve widening the bridge over the Cady Marsh Ditch as well.